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OBSERVATIONS

In the newspapers and elsewhere there is observable a patriotic desire to "Stand Up For Nebraska" that is unusual. At no time in ten years has there been a more hopeful, loyal feeling throughout the state. Indeed it may be said that the people of Nebraska are aroused now as they never have been before, and are more loyal, more alert. Through the darknesses of the past three years have the people journeyed, sometimes in discouragement, sometimes in despair; but the lesson of adversity seems to have borne fruit. The trials have brought out the great vigor and courage of our people. Misfortune has checked the spirit of extravagance that would, sooner or later, have caused a revulsion independent of crop conditions. A temporary and accidental departure from conditions that have obtained practically uninterrupted for twenty-five years has opened the eyes of the people, and warned them against the habit of sloth in agricultural production. There is a spirit of investigation and invention abroad in the land. New ideas are being rapidly applied, both in agriculture and commerce, and the beneficent results are everywhere manifest.

People have at last come to believe that the recent experiences were wholly unnatural and not prophetic. They have considered the accomplishments of the past quarter of a century and they know more about the progress and wealth of this state than they ever did before. Altogether the state of feeling is most encouraging.

J. W. Johnson, familiarly known as "Jo," is entitled to distinction as the man who gave this patriotic movement its first real impetus. Mr. Johnson has

been criticised in these columns. The propriety of some of his methods and statements has been questioned. But withal he succeeded in doing what he set out to do. He awakened a widespread interest in Nebraska. His letters showed that there are many worse places than Nebraska, that in fact, there are few better places. They provoked discussion and set people to thinking, and from these letters has come a healthy, all-pervading sentiment. The World-Herald and other papers have since taken up the refrain and it has been demonstrated beyond all peradventure, by irrefutable facts and figures, that Nebraska, even in the days of adversity and drouth, is an example of unparalleled material progress and prosperity, with possibilities beyond computation.

Reference has been made in The Courier to the successful work of the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben in Omaha, and it has been suggested that the same idea might be profitably applied to the state. Recently the Nebraska club has been organized for a worthy purpose. Whether it will be productive of great benefit remains to be seen. It might be made more effective by following the Ak-Sar-Ben idea. Why not form a Loyal Legion of Nebraska, a close organization with the one definite purpose of pushing Nebraska? An organization of this kind properly equipped and in the hands of the right sort of men might do for the state what the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben have done and are doing for Omaha.

If a man were offered all the gold that has been produced in California or in the Rocky mountains in return for the expenditure of time and money that has been spent in seeking and mining it, he could not afford to take the offer.—State Journal.

This is not clearly or elegantly expressed, but it is probably true. And the lesson of it is that the prosperity attendant upon mining industries is largely speculative and fictitious. Today men in Nebraska are flocking to Cripple Creek to cast their fortune on the swift-running tide of hope, that ebbs and flows like any other tide, now bringing rich prizes, now casting up broken spars and corpses. It is all uncertain. After all, what is the foundation for the stability of a mining country? A hole in the ground with a little shining metal in it. The supply may give out at any time, and then the superstructure that has been builded must collapse like a house of cards. Nebraska has something infinitely more substantial and profitable and certain than gold and silver mines, and many of the men who are leaving for Colorado today will be coming back empty handed a few months or a year from now.

The city of Lincoln is now well along in a process of liquidation that means many a private loss, but which will, ultimately, be of general benefit. En-

cumbrances are being removed and property is passing into the hands of persons well able to improve it. The aggregate of indebtedness is being wonderfully reduced. There is a general readjustment going on. When the tide begins to turn, if it has not already, the town will be on a perfectly solid foundation, and all the people will be in a position to benefit by it. Everybody will take a fresh start. Lincoln is simply passing through what Kansas City, Sioux City, St. Paul, Minneapolis and every other new city has passed through.

Noting the success of Mr. Jones in the conduct of the Journal and confident in that gifted gentleman's ability to keep the wheels of the ponderous machine running, Mr. Gere has embarked in a little enterprise of his own, an enterprise that gives him a suitable opportunity for the display of those youthful enthusiasms and highfalootin tendencies that have ever been characteristic of Mr. Gere. The new enterprise is known as the Sunday Bicycle Journal, the first appearance of which was celebrated the first day of this week with appropriate pomp. It is understood that Mr. Gere has long been desirous of having some part of the Journal in which he could cavort around and kick up his heels unrestrainedly, and not being able to secure this privilege in the regular edition of the Journal he has decided to leave the morning paper entirely in the hands of Master Titwillow, taking the Bicycle Journal for his own particular, peculiar property. In the Bicycle Journal Mr. Gere reigns supreme, and the result is spectacularly edifying. Master Titwillow looks askance at the coltish tendencies of his erstwhile superior, and in his own paper Sunday remarked that "the public will hardly know how to take it" (the Bicycle Journal). Mr. Gere was very interesting on his first appearance last Sunday. The pity is that we have to wait a whole week for him.

Mighty empires are tottering. Thrones are threatened. The murmurs of the multitude ascend to heaven. The sky is leaden. The lightning flashes. The thunder rolls and roars in tremendous volume. Revolution stalks around the earth carrying the death's head. Carnage is about to begin. War impends. Destruction is imminent. We stand on the eve of a revel of cataclysmic horrors in which the crashing of worlds will work the grand and awful finale. [This is not the effect of drink. Neither is it the result of a night-mare. It is not caused by a perusal of a populist newspaper. There is nothing the matter. Just been reading the war correspondence in the Sunday newspapers].

Col. Harwood remarks in the last issue of the Herald: "If the people of Lincoln want good government, if they want an honest and efficient administration, they now have an opportunity to take a step toward securing it. Let them remember that they have entire

freedom of choice. The municipal government is just what the people make it, either good or bad." This is a little trite, but to the point. The frequency of these expressions in Col. Harwood's paper is generally taken as indicating a desire on the part of Col. Harwood to do some of the reforming himself. Whether he will be a candidate for alderman or mayor is not at present known.

A municipal election is coming. Some good sized men ought to be crowded into the council, even if bigger chairs and desks have to be secured.

The settlement of the claim of the Fitzgerald-Mallory company vs. the Missouri Pacific railway company by the payment of \$220,000 was probably the largest cash transaction that ever took place in this city. Business men realize the importance of this transaction. Practically all of this money will remain in Lincoln, and it means a big addition to the working capital of the town. It is understood that the lawyers got \$80,000 of this money, leaving \$140,000 to their clients. And yet it is sometimes said that lawyers are avaricious. Banish the thought in the face of this object lesson of professional unselfishness.

The fact that Judge Dundy dismissed the contempt proceedings arising out of certain remarks in The Courier and later continued my hearing under the indictment by the grand jury to some time in May, has caused at least one contemporary to wonder if Judge Dundy has not capitulated with the understanding that The Courier will remain silent in the future. If anybody imagines that there is any understanding of any sort whatsoever he is very much mistaken. Nothing that Judge Dundy could do or omit could make any change in the attitude of The Courier. This paper is on record and it is prepared to stand by all that it has said. It does not propose to be intimidated by sensational threats such as were made personally by Judge Dundy before the grand jury in December. Neither will it stultify itself by making any compromise, the price of which is silence.

In holding me for contempt Judge Dundy was taking advantage of his high position to "get even" for criticisms printed in these columns, the only proper redress for which is in a proceeding which he must institute as a private citizen. That he was convinced of his mistake was evident in the dismissal of the charge. The second charge is even more ridiculous than the first. If it ever comes to a hearing I do not think that any one will insinuate that the case was not properly defended.

Through the last ten years Lincoln has been gradually acquiring the frills which come to every community as it begins to take on age. Eight years ago Lincoln society was marked by its abstinence. Seldom it was that any-